

LOG OF MEETING DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Report on Comment Meeting; NFPA 73, Residential Electrical Maintenance Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings

DATE OF MEETING: November 8, 1999

PLACE OF MEETING: National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Doug Lee, ESEE *Doc.*

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: November 23, 1999

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Doug Lee, ESEE

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Jeff Sargent, National Fire Protection Association
Donald Nissen, NFPA 73 Committee Chair, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
L.L. Buie, Pettit & Pettit Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Edward S. Charkey
Rolland Leon Dover, International Association of Electrical Inspectors
Stephen L. Dyrnes, Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers
David P. Brown, Edison Electric Institute
John Troglia, Edison Electric Institute
Jack Wells, National Electrical Manufacturers Association
Dan D. White, New York Board of Fire Underwriters
Alan Manche, National Electrical Manufacturers Association
Brooke Stauffer, National Electrical Contractors Association
Lawrence Brown, National Association of Home Builders
Arthur Buxbaum, San Diego Building Inspection, Dept.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The committee met in February 1999 to consider 30 proposals that were submitted for the 2000 revision of the Residential Electrical Maintenance Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings, NFPA 73. Subsequently, there was a period for comments to be made on the actions that the committee took. The meeting on November 8 was to discuss and act upon 11 comments on proposals that were submitted. Four of the eleven comments on proposals were from the CPSC technical staff.

CPSC staff commented that an informative note and requirements should be added to NFPA 73 to guide and assist an inspector using the maintenance code regarding the availability and application of arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs). Although these comments received some

1999 NOV 29 P 12:30
CPSC/OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

support among committee members, they will not likely receive the required 2/3 vote for the provisions to be included in the next edition of the code when written ballots are tallied. Some committee members voiced concern that information regarding remedial measures should not be included in NFPA 73 because it is primarily an inspection code.

CPSC staff also commented that an informative note should be added to NFPA 73 that receptacle outlet testers could provide an indication that the electrical circuit was properly wired. This comment also received some support among the committee members. However, a voice vote did not indicate that the measure would receive the required 2/3 vote when official ballots are submitted. Some committee members indicated that more information was needed to support this addition to the code.

Several proposals regarding AFCIs and receptacle testing submitted by the CPSC staff during the previous meeting in February 1999 were accepted for inclusion in the next edition of NFPA 73 on the basis of not receiving comments for discussion during the November meeting.

Details of the disposition of the eleven comments and proposals will be published subsequently by the NFPA. Ballots during the meeting are provisional until the final balloting is conducted by mail. The CPSC staff is a non-voting member of the committee. For additional background information, see the February 25-26, 1999 meeting log from the meeting on new proposals.